

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00509 021518Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12
COME-00 EB-08 /076 W
-----006806 021552Z /50

O R 021440Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5581
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0509

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NU
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: THE LIBERAL-CONTROLLED SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL TURNED DOWN JAN 31 THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S (PCN) PETITION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE FEB 5 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE PCN RESPONDED BY REAFFIRMING ITS POSITION THAT THE TIME IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS AND DISCLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ELECTIONS. ALSO ON JAN 31 ALL THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION PARTIES (THE PCN, THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL), THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY, AND THE AUTENTICO AND AGUERISTA FACTIONS OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY) SIGNED A DOCUMENT PLEDGING "UNITY IN ACTION." END SUMMARY

1. LIBERAL-CONTROLLED SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL REPORTEDLY TURNED DOWN JAN 31 THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN) PETITION OF JAN 23 TO POSTPONE THE FEB 5 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE CONSERVATIVES HAD ARGUED THAT THE ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT "IN THE CLIMATE OF COMMOTION, UNCERTAINTY AND NATIONAL INDIGNATION CAUSED BY THE OUTRAGEOUS ASSASSI-

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NATION OF DR. PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO" AND "THE SUSPICIOUS MANNER" IN WHICH THE INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED. OPPOSING THE CONSERVATIVE POSITION, THE LIBERAL PARTY (PLN) NATIONAL DIRECTORATE ARGUED THAT THE TRIBUNAL HAD NO AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS, BUT ONLY

TO
ESTABLISH A NEW DATE, A POSTERIORI, IF FOR SOME REASON THE ELECTIONS
COULD NOT BE HELD.

2. IN A PRESS STATEMENT JAN 31 THE PCN REAFFIRMED ITS POSITION,
CITING THE CANCELLATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S VISIT, THE
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY, (I.E., A DE FACTOR STATE OF
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AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS AS EVIDENCE THAT CONDITIONS ARE NOT
APPROPRIATE FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS. THE PCN STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY
DISCLAIMING ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN ON FEB 5
AND DECLARING THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE PLN AND ITS
CHIEF (SOMOZA).

3. ALSO ON JAN 31, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PCN, THE UNION OF
DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL), THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY, AND THE
AGUERISTA AND AUTENTICO FACTIONS OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY SUB-
SCRIBED A UNITY DOCUMENT WHICH STATES THAT:

-- PARTY DIFFERENCES AND STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND TO CON-
SOLIDATE A COMMON WILL.

-- THE PCN AGREES WITH THE OTHER PARTIES THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR
CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEB 5 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, CONFIRMING
THE GENERAL REPUDIATION OF THOSE ELECTIONS. NOTHING IS LEFT BUT THE
RESIGNATION OF SOMOZA TO ATTEMPT TO RECONSTRUCT THE NATION ON
AUTHENTIC HISTORIC VALUES.

-- THE POLITICAL PARTIES, UNITED IN ACTION, WILL TAKE ADEQUATE STEPS
TO ACHIEVE CONCRETE RESULTS.
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4. THE DOCUMENT PRAISES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR,
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND THE PRESS, AND ASSURES THE NATIONAL GUARD
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THEM BUT AGAINST THE "TOTTERING SOMOCISTA DICTATORSHIP."

5. COMMENT: THE UNITY DOCUMENT OF JAN 31 DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE THE
CREATION OF A SINGLE UNIFIED OPPOSITION ORGANIZATION, BUT RATHER
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SHORT OF DECLARING THAT THE PCN WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FEB 5
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: THE LIBERAL-CONTROLLED SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL TURNED DOWN JAN
31 THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S (PCN) PETITIO
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Review Markings:
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